

Appln. No. 10/761,988
Amendment dated July 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed April 10, 2006

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REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 12 remain in this application. No claims have been cancelled or withdrawn. Claims 13 and 14 have been added.

Parts 1 and 2 of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wang. This rejection is not understood, as the specific remarks under this rejection appear to be directed to the Sacca, rather than the Wang, patent, and the particular points (reference numbers and column and line references) appear to be directed to Sacca. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sacca.

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires "a networking device between the power line plug and each of the plurality of powerline outlets, the networking device including logic configured to *isolate the plurality of powerline outlets from network traffic on the power grid*" (emphasis added). Claim 7 requires, in part, "networking means between the powerline plug means and the powerline outlet means, the networking means *for isolating the powerline outlet means from network traffic on the power grid*" (emphasis added).

It is contended in the rejection of the Office Action that:

2) the networking device including logic for isolating the outlets from network traffic is met by the built in coupling apparatus or PLT networking which includes filtering (see: column 6, lines 26-54).

Looking to the Sacca patent at the portion referenced in the rejection, Sacca at col. 6, lines 26 through 54 states (all emphasis added):

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Referring now to FIG. 6, a PC power strip 600 is depicted. PC power strip includes a power cord 605 coupled to an electrical plug 610. Power cord 605 is coupled to a power filter with a PLT coupler 620. Power filter with PLT coupler 620 may be, in an exemplary embodiment, circuitry depicted in FIG. 4 or circuitry depicted in FIG. 5, for example. Power strip 600 includes an integrated PLT jack 630 and a plurality of electrical outlets 640. Power strip 600 includes a built-in coupling apparatus 620 for PLT networking, including adequate filtering to de-couple noise from the computer system and its peripherals coupled to electrical outlets 640. The solution offers consumers a way to efficiently couple high-frequency signals to the power line without being effected by the specific PC and peripherals used. Power strips 600, may be generalized, in an exemplary embodiment, to an improved wall-mount power adapter for PLT home networking, or to an improved wall electrical outlet containing an output jack for PLT signal coupling, having similar internal circuit topology as the power strip, such as the circuitry depicted in FIGS. 4 and 5. PLT jack 630 may be, but is not limited to a standard RJ11 type jack. In an exemplary embodiment power strip 600 includes electrical outlets 650 which may be unfiltered outlets. Outlets 650 may be used to provide electrical power and data signals to devices that are already PLT compliant (i.e., the devices already contain filters, such as, but not limited to EMI filters 430 and 510, depicted in FIGS. 4 and 5. In alternative exemplary embodiments electrical outlets 650 may not be present.

It is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, considering the Sacca patent and in particular the referenced portion of Sacca, would understand that the filter in Sacca filters out noise *from* the computers connected to the outlets so that the noise does not reach the power line, which is quite different from the requirement of claim 1 of "logic configured to *isolate the plurality of powerline outlets from network traffic on the power grid*", and the requirement of claim 7 of "networking means for *isolating the powerline outlet means from network traffic on the power grid*". It is thus submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art is more likely to be led away from the requirements of claims 1 and 7 by the Sacca patent then being led to the claim requirements.

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As further evidence of and reinforcement for the above, it is noted that the Sacca patent states at col. 4, lines 18 through 33 that (all emphasis added):

In an exemplary embodiment, power supply 210 is coupled to an AC plug 225 through an EMI filter 230. Also, in an exemplary embodiment EMI filter 230 includes a capacitor 235 coupled between the N terminal of AC plug 225 and a transformer 270, an inductor 240 coupled in series with AC plug 225 and power supply 210, and to capacitors 255 and 260 coupled between PC power terminals 245 and 250 respectively and to ground 265. EMI filter 230 is used to filter out noise being generated in switching power supply 210, so that when PC 200 is connected to the power line, high-frequency noise generated by power supply 210 is not sent through the power line. EMI filter 230 is used to filter out noise being generated switches and in power supply 210, so that when PC 200 is connected to the power line, high frequency noise generated by power supply 210 is not sent through the power line.

Again, the Sacca patent leads one of ordinary skill in the art to filter noise generated by the power supply of the PC 200 from reaching the power line, and not the reverse.

In part 2 of the Office Action, it is alleged that:

- With regards to claims 2 and 8, the examiner takes Official Notice that in the electrical coupling art, use of surge suppression means for power strips is well known in the art, and therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate surge suppression means into the power strip(600) of Sacca, since the power strip of Sacca is utilized by sensitive electronic devices, and use of surge suppression means would have ensured that sudden power spikes would not have damaged the sensitive equipment.

However, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes the potential for problems in passing data signals through a surge suppression circuit, and that therefore it would not be obvious to incorporate a surge suppression circuit into the Sacca device.

It is therefore submitted that the Sacca patent would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the applicant's claimed invention as defined in

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claims 1 and 7, especially with the requirements set forth above, and therefore it is submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the prior art. Further, claims 2 through 4 and 8 through 10, which depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively, also include the requirements discussed above and therefore are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections of claims 1 through 4 and 7 through 10 is therefore respectfully requested.

Part 3 of the Office Action

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The above amendment incorporates the requirements of claim 1 into the recitation of claim 5, and therefore claim 5 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the requirements of claim 1 into the recitation of claim 6, and therefore claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the requirements of claim 7 into the recitation of claim 11, and therefore claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the requirements of claim 7 into the recitation of claim 12, and therefore claim 12 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

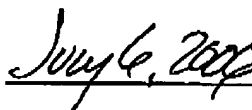
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODS, FULLER, SHULTZ & SMITH P.C.



Date:



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